



GOVERNOR ACKNOWLEDGES MDOC SUCCESSES

On December 8, 2008, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm listened to Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) employees and community partners describe success stories related to Collaborative Case Management (CCM) and the Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative (MPRI). As part of the "One Great - Super Eight Innovation Initiative," Governor Granholm heard reports from the panel and provided feedback about their efforts to ensure offender success. One ex-offender was there to share his story too. Michael Grau acknowledged previous failures and then reported how collaborative case management and MPRI provided resources, direction, and structure for his successful return to society. Other panel members including Teresa Chandler, Dr. Sonal Patel, Shanna Kuslikas, John Bennett and Mary King shared their stories as well; stories of community change, institutional programming developments, and collaboration on a statewide scale.



Governor Granholm (far right) and panel members discuss Collaborative Case Management and its benefits.

The "One Great - Super Eight Innovation Initiative" was launched by the Executive Office through the Office of Great Workplace Development and requires each state agency to identify and implement a sizeable process to re-engineer and improve in the interest of innovation, as well as eight smaller, grass roots innovations that will save money, garner employee involvement and/or applause, and garner customer applause.

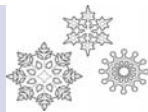
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The Michigan Department of Corrections focused on Collaborative Case Management (CCM) as the "One Great" process to re-engineer. CCM is evolving into the offender support mechanism that spans throughout their interaction with the MDOC and beyond. CCM is an all-encompassing process that involves the offender, MDOC, other state agencies, and community partners with a goal toward offender success upon release into the community. The results of CCM will hopefully be less crime, fewer prisoners, and cost-savings realized through a smaller prison system.

From the feedback received during the panel discussion, MDOC is right on target with this initiative.

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A VICTIM OF FRAUD, JEHT FUNDING DISSIPATES

The JEHT Foundation, a key partner in the Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative (MPRI), has informed all of their grantees that they are a victim of the high-profile Bernard Madoff fraud case and will be closing their doors in January 2009. The Foundation has been a supporter of many re-entry projects in Michigan.

A national philanthropic organization, the Foundation has stopped all grant making effective immediately. The funds of the donors to the Foundation, Jeanne Levy-Church and Kenneth Levy-Church, were managed by Bernard L. Madoff, a prominent financial advisor who was recently arrested last week for defrauding investors out of billions of dollars.

The Foundation was established in 2000. Its name stands for the values it holds dear: Justice, Equality, Human dignity and Tolerance. In part, it supported programs that promoted reform of the criminal and juvenile justice systems.



As a key funder of Michigan Department of Correction's re-entry efforts, the department realizes this will affect many community partners. The MDOC will examine all potential strategies within state government, with our partners in the foundation community, and with others to minimize the impact caused by this unfortunate set of events. It is the goal of the MDOC to continue with our prisoner re-entry initiative at the same robust pace as we have prior to this unfortunate circumstance.

LEGISLATIVE OMBUDSMAN'S OFFICE NOW OPEN FOR BUSINESS

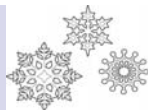
The Legislative Council appointed Keith Barber as the new Legislative Corrections Ombudsman on November 24, 2008. The Legislative Corrections Ombudsman's office was originally created in 1975 to investigate complaints by offenders that allege a violation of policy or state law by the Michigan Department of Corrections. The office is an agency of the Michigan Legislative Council and investigates on behalf of the State Legislature.

Mr. Barber comes to the post with considerable knowledge of the corrections system and will be a familiar face to many staff. He began as a Field Investigator with the Ombudsman's office in 1982 and was appointed Chief Investigator in 2003, having over 21 years of experience conducting investigations, visiting correctional facilities, and working with prisoners and MDOC staff.

Mr. Barber looks forward to working in partnership with the MDOC to identify areas of concern in administrative policies, procedures and state laws in order to create effective solutions. His goal is to work collaboratively with the Department to develop an efficient and effective corrections system that provides humane treatment and living conditions for the prisoner population that is consistent with the Department's mandate to protect the public and reintegrate offenders into society.

In addition to Mr. Barber, the Legislative Corrections Ombudsman's Office will be supported by two investigators and an administrative staff.





CLEANSWEEP AT RRF FINDS "SHANKS" AND OTHER CONTRABAND

The newest officers in the Michigan Department of Corrections got a chance to help out Ryan Correctional Facility (RRF) on December 8, 2008. The officers - recruits from the Richard Goward Class - along with Academy staff and staff from RRF searched cells and common areas within the facility in an unannounced contraband sweep that has proven to be very effective at finding hidden items that prisoners are not allowed to possess.

Operation Cleansweep is an initiative developed several years ago to help facilities search through prisoner property in attempt to find illegal and dangerous contraband. A facility is identified and search plans are confidentially developed so that prisoners do not have the chance to hide contraband prior to the arrival of the recruit officers who will be searching for it. Upon arrival, recruit officers spend the next several hours searching prison cells, dayrooms, work sites, and common areas.

At RRF, a variety of contraband was found including, expired medications, excess property and two shanks - prisoner made weapons designed for stabbing or slashing.

GOWARD CLASS GRADUATES

The Richard Goward Class graduated on December 12, 2008. The class namesake is the only MDOC staff member to die in combat in the Iraq war. Goward was a Specialist in the Michi-

gan National Guard with the 1460th Transportation Company out of Midland, MI. He was killed when the truck he was in collided with another vehicle during a dust storm. Goward also served in the Army on active duty from 1990 to 1996. He was a corrections officer at the St. Louis prison complex from 1999 until his death in April 2003.



*National Guard
Specialist and MDOC
Corrections Officer
Ric Goward*

The newest generation of corrections officers will complete a two-week OJT period at their assigned facility and then will be placed on-shift in positions of need. This graduating class will help fill vital positions within the Department, reducing overtime costs and supporting facility operations.

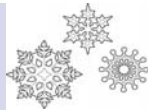
CONFERENCE TO FOCUS ON MENTAL HEALTH

"What works: Offender Treatment & Assessment & the Management of Prisons" is a conference for those interested in treating offenders with mental illnesses. The conference will be April 28-29, 2009 at the Marriott Country Club Plaza, Kansas City, Missouri.

Paul Gendreau, OC, PhD; Professor Emeritus, University of New Brunswick will deliver the keynote address. Dr. Gendreau has published extensively on "what works" in the assessment and treatment of offenders, and the effects of prison life, and is considered one of the preeminent scholars in the field of correctional mental health.

Author Pete Earley will also discuss *"CRAZY: A Father's Search Through America's Mental Health Madness."* His presentation relates to his





experiences with his son's mental illness and contact with the criminal justice system.

The Mental Health in Corrections Consortium has grown steadily over the years and we are confident that MHCC 2009 will continue this trend. MHCC is one of the preeminent national conferences devoted to correctional mental health and it is our belief and hope that the 2009 conference will be exciting and educational. For more information, please contact: Dr. Andrea Tobias at andreatobias2008@yahoo.com.

SECC FUND-RAISERS "GIVE WHAT YOU LIVE"

Grandview Plaza's third floor is the winner of this year's State Employees Charitable Campaign (SECC) Penny Challenge. Director Patricia Caruso acknowledged their win with a Penny Challenge Plaque and they received four casual days as a reward for their collective efforts. Totals for the Penny Challenge were \$734.06, with \$558.76 in actual pennies.



From Left: Joann Irrer, Director Caruso, Alice Brown, Char Prochazka, Jessica Dunkel, Ashley Norton, and Vanessa Wojtowicz.

The Cake/Pie Contest was a great success. Cake Contest Winners were: First prize - Christine Navarro, Second prize - Sharon St. Charles, Third prize - Sandy Feldpausch. Pie Contest

Winners are: First prize - Lisa Harmon, Second prize - Sharon St.Charles, Third prize - Jan Hoag. Judging the contest were Gary Manns, John Rubitschun, Sandy Simon, Le'Ann Duran, Gatha McClellan and three CFA Regional Food Service Directors.

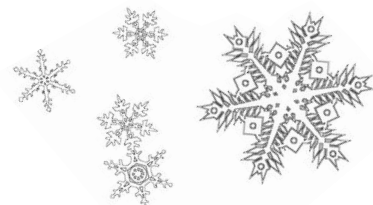


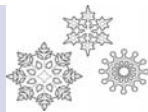
From Left: Mike Burgess, Gary Manns, and John Rubitschun test various confections.

The Balloon Pop, two Bake Sales and Wednesday Casual Days were also very popular and a big success. This year's fund-raisers totaled \$2,286.16. The monies were divided between American Red Cross/Mid-MI Chapter, Eaton Community Hospice, Food Bank Council of Michigan, Michigan National Guard Family Fund and Reading is Fundamental.

FYI OMISSIONS AND CORRECTIONS

Omission: In the December 8, 2008 issue of FYI, Phyliss White of Huron Valley Complex - Women was not mentioned for her exemplary service to the Officer Recruit Training program. Phyliss did a great job helping out and deserves recognition.





QUITTER'S CORNER

Rosanne Leland, MDOC's Work/Life Services Coordinator, recently interviewed Officer Donald Mason (at Right) of Florence Crane Correctional Facility (ACF):



FYI: *When did you quit smoking?*

Mason: "I quit smoking in 1992."

FYI: *For how long did you smoke?*

Mason: "I smoked for twenty years."

FYI: *Why did you quit smoking?*

Mason: "Smoking is bad for you. My father carried around oxygen for the last four years of his life, due to smoking. He developed Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and Emphysema as a result."

FYI: *How have you felt mentally and physically since you stopped?*

Mason: "Since I quit smoking I feel like a ton of bricks has been lifted off my chest."

FYI: *In what situations did you find it most difficult for you to stop smoking?*

Mason: "It was hard for me to stop at work because there is a social network of smokers at work. It was difficult being around others who smoked. It was also hard for me in the mornings and after a meal."



FYI: *Who helped you stop smoking?*

Mason: "My wife was my encouragement. She was very supportive."

FYI: *What message would you give your co-workers who are trying to stop smoking?*

Mason: "Never give up...never give up trying. Don't ever stop trying or you may get cancer. Sadly, I lost my brother, who was a heavy smoker, to cancer recently."

FOR THE HEALTH OF IT: SHOVEL THIS!

A recent *U.S. News and World Report* article discussed snow shoveling safety tips. With all of the snow we have, it's a good time to review some of the precautions that will make the activity safer.

If you have a pre-existing heart condition or are at-risk of having a heart-related illness, you need your doctor's clearance before shoveling. Every year there are several stories in the news about snow shovelers dying of heart attacks in the snow pile they just created.

Shoveling is a strenuous physical exercise. If you are a sedentary person who thinks that they will hop out of the chair and move 3 cubic yards



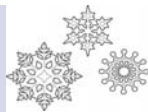
of snow from their driveway, you may be in for some trouble. If you don't exercise regularly, take it easy. Work on small areas at a time and take frequent breaks. Don't overload the shovel. Lift only what is comfortable for you.

Stretch before and after and stay hydrated. While it may not seem like you need fluids, you do. Drinking plenty of water is an important component to any workout, and shoveling is a serious workout. A little hot chocolate once you finish is a great way to warm up.

Try to push the snow rather than lifting when you can. If the snow is heavy and wet, shovel small amounts frequently. Don't try to be a superhero. If you feel chest pain - STOP IMMEDIATELY and seek medical attention. Don't delay!

Once you have finished and the snow stops falling, salt or sand areas for better traction. Everyone using the walkway will appreciate it.





A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

BY JOHN C. CORDELL



Holidays and the new year, a time of joyful reflection, giving, sharing, traveling, new resolutions, overspending, overeating, and overload. This year, more than any in recent memory, we are all uncertain. Financial markets are in a downward spiral, automakers are weeks away from total collapse, the United States and Michigan are hemorrhaging jobs, the global economy is slowing, tobacco use, obesity, heart disease and cancer remain significant health risks, prison closures will impact our employees, and America remains entrenched in two wars overseas. It seems pretty bleak. There is no doubt that many of us are feeling the effects of America's maladies right now.

But there is something we have that allows us to survive. It's the American spirit. We are really good at rallying when things get bad. Just when it appears that all is lost, we as a people bounce back. We do it because of who we are, because of our diversity, our collective talents, our initiative, and our belief that America is something special. We love a challenge. It's not easy, but in the end we will be even stronger. In adversity, there is hope, and with it comes change. Over the next several months, there will be many changes in the fabric of our American society. Automakers will try to right themselves, a new President will lead our country, troops will begin coming home, new projects and initiatives will give jobs to those in need, and our economy may yet find balance.

I have talked to several people who are new to America and their position is all the same - they would not want to live anywhere else. I asked them why they have chosen not to live in their country of origin? The collective answer is that the United States offers the greatest chance at a successful life; not China, not Germany, not Dubai. America, the Land of Opportunity. My guess is that none of us would trade living here for living anywhere else on our little planet. We ARE Americans.

This new year, no matter what your country of origin, religious affiliation, belief, or value set is, find hope for a better tomorrow; hope filled with all of the ideals that make each of us proud to be Americans. Believe that America will rise again to be the conservator of a vision containing a free and just world where our global partners look to us for guidance in achieving that vision; an America that leads the World toward peace and a balance between rich and poor.

My wish this new year is that together we knit an American fabric that is strong and inviting, yet keeps us safe and warm for many years to come - a fabric that we can share with everyone in our World who is interested in wearing it. What's yours?

HONOR GUARD TO PRESENT SEMINAR AT ACA

The Michigan Department of Corrections Honor Guard is presenting a workshop titled, "*Honor Guard: Starting and Maintaining an Elite Unit*" (A-17, Osceola Room 3) at the upcoming American Correctional Association's 2009 Winter Conference. If you are attending the conference and have an interest in how an Honor Guard unit functions, please feel free to attend the seminar. It is Saturday, January 10, 2009 from 4-5:30 PM.

